



Dear Colleague:

September 29, 2011

LANDFIRE National data have been completed for the United States since 2009 with a circa 2001 date. LANDFIRE is in the final stages of updating the data products for vegetation changes from 1999-2008. Included in these are GIS data products which depict fuel models, forest canopy characteristics, and other attributes used in fire behavior prediction and fuels assessment.

You have been identified as a prospective participant in a data review workshop that will cover the different LANDFIRE zones in your area. The workshop will be held in Fairbanks, AK. The session will be held on November 7-10, 2011 for the following mapping zones 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78. The workshop is sponsored by LANDFIRE with the *purpose to evaluate the LANDFIRE 2008 "Refresh" fire behavior fuel models* which comprises all of Alaska.

Who should attend the workshops?

Desired participants for these workshops are agency (state, local and federal), tribal, and private employees with an integrated knowledge of vegetation types and their relationships to fuels, fuel modeling systems, and fire behavior. The days will be spent reviewing maps and rule sets specific to this area for the 13/40 & Canadian Fuel Models.

Why conduct a review of LANDFIRE fuel data?

LANDFIRE fuel layers were produced to support decision making and unit fuels analysis for Fire Program Analysis (FPA), Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) and for the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS). The LANDFIRE products are being used for multiple purposes; such as natural resource management, and analytical assessments.

To improve the quality of the data, LANDFIRE leadership have supported the review and calibration of fuel layers. The United States is stratified into "mapping zones" based upon similar regions of vegetation and ecological likeness as part of the National Land Cover Database (NLCD). Workshops have been held for regional clusters of these zones. This workshop is being held for the zones in Alaska to solicit expert feedback on fuel layers. This review of fuels data is occurring to allow for:

- Improving the usability and efficacy of fuel data.
- Direct interaction between LANDFIRE scientists and field Fire/Fuel/vegetation managers.
- Opportunities to re-evaluate assumptions and decision rules.
- Fine tuning of map products based on local knowledge.
- Highlighting underrepresented logic in the mapping process.
- Increasing visibility and understanding of LANDFIRE products.
- Building support for LANDFIRE products within broader agency management and scientific communities.

How will the feedback be used?

Local expert feedback will be provided to LANDFIRE scientists to improve the fuel layers. As appropriate, LANDFIRE fuel layers will then be updated and released by this coming spring. When they are released, information will be posted at www.landfire.gov and sent to Alaska coordinators and participants of the workshop.

What to Bring?

Attendees should bring information (local maps, vegetation maps, fuel model layers developed for FPA or unit work, fuel model rule sets, and other available data depicting fuel conditions) which could help validate or refine LANDFIRE fuel data products. A laptop is not needed but may be helpful if you would like to share information with the calibration team.

Workshop Schedule with Zones to be Calibrated

A map of the state of Alaska, labeled 'AK', showing various landfire zones. The zones are numbered: 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78. The zones are distributed across the state, with some zones (like 76) appearing in multiple locations. The zones are colored in a light blue/cyan shade.

Workshop Schedule

LANDFIRE Zones to Calibrate	Location	Date	Time
70	Fairbanks	Mon Nov. 7	1300 - 1700
74, 73, & 71	Fairbanks	Tue Nov. 8	0800 - 1700
72, 68, 67, 75, & 69	Fairbanks	Wed Nov. 9	0800 - 1700
76, 77, & 78	Fairbanks	Thu Nov. 10	0800 - 1200

What will happen during the workshops?

Experts of Alaska vegetation and fuels are encouraged to participate on days where they can share specific map zone knowledge. Attendees will provide review and input that may be used to revise mapping rule sets, and review new maps as they are updated “on the fly”. In some cases, suggested changes will not be able to be accommodated due to things such as data limitations or structure of the data. By the conclusion of the workshop, it is expected that users will make substantive improvements in the fire behavior fuel model data products based upon their knowledge of regional fuel conditions and fire behavior trends. This feedback will be synthesized by LANDFIRE scientists to improve the fuel layers and future updates. Specific fuel data products which will be reviewed include the Anderson 13, Scott and Burgan 40, and Canadian fire behavior fuel models. Not all issues or problems will be addressed in the short time available for each zone; however, we will strive to address the largest concerns in an appropriate manner.

Workshop Logistics Fairbanks, AK

Date & Time:

Starting November 7 at 1300 and ending November 10 at 1200.

(See Table above for specific Map Zone dates)

Location: The workshop will be held in Training Room 3 at the BLM-Alaska Fire Service main office located at 1541 Gaffney Road, Fort Wainwright. Workshop attendees will need to obtain a pass from the visitor's center at the main gate. You must provide your current vehicle registration, driver's license, and proof of insurance. Be prepared to show your pass and identification for all passengers upon entry. Multi-day passes are available, but provide extra time on the first day to obtain the pass.

Webinar Information:

The workshop will be offered via webinar, although participants are encouraged to attend the Fairbanks workshop if possible. Webinar registration links are provided below. Please note that actual times for the different map zones may deviate from the table above; registered webinar participants will be notified via e-mail if a map zone will be discussed more than 20 minutes later than the scheduled time. If you are interested in having a webinar “Hotspot” in Anchorage or Kenai for group participation, please contact Lisa Saperstein or Jan Passek listed below.

Webinar Registration

Day 1: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/587052497>

Day 2: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/209589121>

Day 3: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/932774960>

Day 4: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/576156241>

Attendance Confirmation & Questions

If you plan to attend the workshop or if you have any questions, please contact: Lisa Saperstein, FWS Office: 907.786.3422, Cell: 907.632.1159, Email: Lisa_Saperstein@fws.gov or Jan Passek, FWS Office: 907.786.3654, Cell: 907.947.9556, Email: jan_passek@fws.gov

Thank you for your interest in the LANDFIRE fuels data

We look forward to working with you.